

ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1935

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, D. C.

The Committee met pursuant to call at 10 :10 a. m., in the Finance Committee room, Senate Office Building, Senator Pat Harrison (chairman) presiding.

Present : Senators Harrison (chairman), King, George, Barkley, Costigan, Clark, Byrd, Lonergan, Gerry, Couzens, Metcalf, Hastings, and Capper.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, Miss Davis, we will hear you first.

STATEMENT OF MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE DAVIS, WASHINGTON, D. C., REPRESENTING THE TOWNSEND-DAVIS CLYSTERTORY HEALTH TREATMENTS, ATHENS, ALA. ; ALSO REPRESENTING MRS. EMMA H. TOWNSEND, CORSICANA, TEX.

Miss DAVIS. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I come before you to ask you to revive a piece of social-security legislation that was sponsored at one time by Senator John H. Bankhead, Sr., and which was to be an amendment to a bill that was before the public health committee and introduced in the Senate by Senator Ransdell, of Louisiana. It was introduced on the day that Woodrow Wilson read his 14 peace points, on the 22d of January 1917, and we soon after that went to war in Europe and I never knew what became of that legislation. But I have been on the firing line all the time. Now that the United States Senate, Father Coughlin, and Will Rogers have finished the war, I want to get back to that legislation, Mr. Chairman, and see if you cannot put it into the Economic Security Act.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you got a copy of the bill?

Miss DAVIS. Senator Ransdell's bill?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Miss DAVIS. No, sir; I haven't. I have a copy of the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Put that into the record, Miss Davis.

Miss DAVIS. Yes.

The amendment to S. 2215 (64th Cong., 2d sess.) is as follows:

That there shall be established a division of personal hygiene and human sanitation, based on the Townsend-Davis clystertory method (intestinal cleansing), for the prevention of infantile paralysis to the end that the disease be controlled and cured.

That an appropriation for the purchase of said Townsend-Davis clystertory method be made by the United States Government, the sum to be \$1,000,000. That said method be disseminated by bulletins of instruction and personal demonstration to the people of the United States and possessions for the prevention of infantile paralysis and other preventable and curable diseases, cancer, appendicitis, high blood pressure, and the common cold. The common cold alone causes the loss of billions of dollars to the American people every year.

The duty of this division shall be to investigate and encourage the adoption of improved methods of human sanitation and the use of said method in ridding the human intestines and blood of the waste material. The retention of material similar to pus and mucus in the small intestines and stomach is the cause of infantile paralysis and other diseases, and the Townsend-Davis clystertory method removes this cause.

This division shall be known as the "Bureau of Instruction in Hygiene for the Prevention of Disease", and shall be a clearing house for all methods of

hygiene, nonmedical, not already recognized, for the conquering of loathsome diseases by instruction in the care of the body. A nominal sum to be charged for said instruction will maintain the bureau.

Miss DAVIS. I would like, Mr. Chairman, to say that Senator Long succeeded Senator Ransdell in the Senate and he has adopted a slogan, "Share our wealth." So I am offering our slogan, "Share our health", and we will share it with all if you help us.

Mrs. Townsend discovered this method and we have developed it for a period of 35 years. We haven't asked for any funds of anybody, nor of the Government, while the physicians have been financed by all the foundations and the Government. Now that she has lived her three score years and ten, I would like to have put in the record what Mrs. Townsend's home paper said about her. Mrs. Townsend, for whom I am speaking, could not come up from Texas.

(The statement referred to is as follows:)

[From the Daily Sun, January 1904, Corsicana, Tex.]

Mrs. Emma H. Townsend left today for Weatherford where a large class in health culture awaits her instruction. In years to come Corsicana will be erecting a monument to this woman, who is just that much ahead of our times in her knowledge of things which, as a benefit to humankind, makes them wiser, healthier, and happier.

Miss DAVIS. At that time I had gone to work for her in the clystertory method, after she restored me from being an invalid.

The CHAIRMAN. I was just going to suggest to you, Miss Davis, that you may put into the record any statement you want in elaboration of your views.

Miss DAVIS. Yes, sir. I first took this measure up with the Economic Security Committee that the President appointed, in order to get it on the bill, and I did not get to see Miss Perkins, nor Mr. Hopkins. I had letters from Senator Bankhead and Mr. Bankhead, but I did not get to see them. I did see Mr. Witte, and he wrote me a letter in which he said that they would not take up any health work in this bill. However, I find that Senator Wagner has put it in the bill, and if it does not put you out too much, I would just like to read this. I had called on Mr. Edwin C. Witte in reference to the endorsement of the clystertory health treatments, and he wrote me as follows:

We are returning herewith the material which you left with us a few days ago. Since our committee, however, has a definite field which it must cover in its report and this does not include public-health activities I cannot see how we can take up this proposal.

But I find that they did take it up in the bill, so that is the reason that I come before you. It is too late to do anything with that committee. The bill you are considering, the Economic Security Act, does take up public-health activities, and I am asking that the Townsend-Davis Clystertory Health Method be given a square deal under the bill, as well as the regular medical profession.. We have cured thousands of people and have taught them how to stay well. We have tested this treatment for 35 years. It does not need any more testing, and with the statistics I can present to you of the illness of our people I am sure this committee will help us. This committee was elected by the people, just as Mr. Roosevelt was, and he will receive your decision in reference to including the clystertory method in this Economic Security Act favorably, I believe, when his attention has been called to the need of it for the security of the men, women,

and children. He has pledged himself to do this for them while he is President.

I was sent to Miss Roche by a White House secretary but was told that she could not see me.

My Congressman, Hon. Archibald H. Carmichael, of the Eighth Alabama District, made arrangements for me to talk with Mr. McIntyre, Secretary to President Roosevelt, and he asked me to present the clystertory treatment to him with the endorsements, which I did. Mr. McIntyre wrote me:

I do not believe that the President will endorse a proposal to appropriate public money for the proprietorship in a method for the prevention and treatment of disease when free publication is so frequently made by others of such matters. If you care to make free a detailed publication the method would, I am sure, receive attention from those competent to express an opinion of its general value. In the meanwhile the permission to practice the method given you by Congress in 1929 should assist you in assembling evidence as to such value.

When I was granted that privilege and won my rights to practice through the District of Columbia Committee, I had two of this committee, Senators Capper, King, and Vandenberg to help, who gave me a certificate, and I was permitted to go ahead with my method. Senator Copeland, who is a doctor, agreed with them in conference. Now the "old Republican deal" gave me a square deal, and I am asking the Democratic "new deal" to give us a square deal by adopting this amendment to the Economic Security Act now. Mr. Luther Johnson, Mr. W. B. Bankhead, Mr. E. B. Almon, Mr. Frederick Zihlman, Mr. Frank Bowman, and Mr. Tom L. Blanton won my rights in the House of Representatives

I submitted evidence as to the value of the clystertory treatments to Mr. McIntyre. I will just go a little further back and state that when Senator John H. Bankhead, Sr., first introduced this social-security legislation, he was very careful to make a very extensive and intensive investigation of the merits of this method. He would never have sponsored it had he not done it. On his own private board of investigators he had Dr. John H. Wyeth, Dr. William N. Polk, and Dr. Simon Baruch, who had allowed the two founders, Mrs. Townsend and myself, to demonstrate this method to them. Dr. Baruch is the father of many kinds of water treatments and he said he thought he knew it all, but after he investigated ours he said it was original, it was scientific and effectual. That is what he wrote my Senator. So I feel that Senator Bankhead did not introduce any fantastic legislation.

The **CHAIRMAN**. Miss Davis, we will give every consideration to it. Have you any other matters that you want to put in the record?

Miss **DAVIS**. I just want to say this much, Senator. The appendicitis record for 1932 is appalling, as given by Frederick L. Hoffman, LL. D., consulting statistician for the Prudential Life Insurance Co. The highest death rate for cities with excessive appendicitis death rates is 46.9 per 100,000, in Salt Lake City, and the lowest death rate, which is in Union City, N. J., is 1.5. No explanation can be given for the differences. Mrs. Townsend, the founder of the clystertory treatment method, and myself, have discovered the cure for appendicitis, and when we reduce the death rate to such an extent it would justify the \$1,000,000 that we ask. That is a small price for what we have clone. We ask it because we cannot afford to disseminate

it free, and we know of no doctors who have not been financed in some way or other by some foundation of our Government. I hope they will continue to do all the good work they can. I would like to have this list of the cities with these death rates inserted in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Very well.

(The list of death rates referred to is as follows :)

Cities with excessive appendicitis death rates, 1932

[Rate per 100,000]

Salt Lake City-- _____	46.9	Wheeling, W. Va.-----	35.0
Lexington, Ky-- _____	42.9	El Paso, Tex.-----	34.3
Oak Park, Ill-----	40.4	Greensboro, N. C.-----	33.7
Nashville, Tenn-----	39.0	Jackson, Mich-----	33.5
Little Rock, Ark-----	38.3	Madison, Wis-----	32.7
Portland, Maine-- _____	35.0	Savannah, Ga-----	31.6
Memphis, Tenn-- _____	37.4	Dallas, Tex-----	30.1

Cities with low appendicitis death rate, 1932

[Rate per 100,000]

Union City, N. J-- _____	1.5	Bedford, Mass-----	3.1
Altoona, Pa-----	2.3	Mount Vernon, N. Y-----	3.1
Salem, Mass-----	2.3	Pasadena, Calif-----	3.6
Akron, Ohio-- _____	3.0	McKeesport, Pa-----	5.3
Topeka, Kans-----	3.0	New Rochelle, N. Y-----	5.3

Miss Roche, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, who is in charge of public health, stated to you in support of this bill before you that the staff of the Committee on Economic Security, created by Executive order, reported to the President, that the annual loss to families whose incomes were less than \$2,500, from illness, in wages is \$900,000,000 and in money loss is \$2,400,000,000. The loss from infantile paralysis is appalling. With these statistics before him I know President Roosevelt will not object, as this is a woman's price for the clystertory treatments and only Uncle Sam's pocket change for a few minutes.

Dr. Benjamin Rush, who signed the Declaration of Independence, said that his alopathic school of medicine should not build a medical oligarchy in any country.

In 1931 the number of deaths from appendicitis was 18.13, equivalent to 15.2 per 100,000 population. Regardless of its practical importance! appendicitis has been neglected as a public-health problem. The clystertory treatment prevents operations. I hope to get this legislation passed as a part of the bill before you; that it include an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the purchase of the Townsend-Davis Clystertory Health Treatments, to be distributed to the people by a bulletin and other means of instruction, the expense to be borne by the Government, but no expense to be incurred for Mrs. Townsend and Miss Davis except the purchase price. This million dollars will save the cost's of illness. We can furnish many testimonials, if desired, and patients will appear as witnesses for the clystertory treatments.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Miss Davis. Mr. Folsom, you are assistant treasurer of the Eastman Kodak Co. and served on the advisory council of the Committee on Economic Security?